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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **SK ENERGY AND CHEMICAL INC.** [US/US]; 22-10 Route 208 South, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **KWON, Taesoo** [/]; 35 Schneider Lane, Montville, NJ (US). **GU, Chen** [/]; 76 Roosevelt Avenue, Lake Hiawatha, NJ (US). **YANG, Soon-Ha** [/]; 1149-1 Bunji, Ilsan 4-dong, Ilsan Gu, Gyeonggi-do 411-828 (KR).
- (74) Agent: **SWOPE, R., Hain**; Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, NJ-07102 (US).
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(54) Title: **IMPROVED SYNTHETON SYNTHESIS**

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure relates to an improved synthesis of the commercially important synthon ECHB starting from the readily available 3-hydroxy- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone. The reaction employs a single pot procedure without isolation or purification of the intermediates. It has the advantage over procedures previously employed in the art of using reagents and conditions which minimize undesired side reactions and which can be readily employed at commercial scale. The product is produced in high yield and is readily purified to provide an excellent intermediate for further synthesis of commercially important products such as L-carnitine and the pharmaceutically important active substances used in HMG-coA reductase inhibitor products such as Lipitor®.

WO 2004/031131 A1

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/30869

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C07C 243/28

US CL : 558/445, 451

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 558/445, 451

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
EAST, STN CAS ONLINE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,114,566 (HOLLINGSWORTH et al) 05 September 2000 (05.09.2000), entire document	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Kamal Saeed, Ph.D., *Kamal Saeed*

Telephone No. (571) 272-0705

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